

What is claimed is:

1        1. A method of communicating with an unknown mail server, comprising:  
 2        determining whether a machine-selected one of a plurality of mail server names  
 3        corresponds to a mail server associated with an on-line provider; and  
 4        communicating with the mail server associated with the on-line provider when the  
 5        machine-selected one of a plurality of mail server names corresponds to the mail server.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining includes:  
 providing an e-mail address for the on-line provider;  
 converting the e-mail address to a mail server name associated with on-line provider; and  
 linking to a mail port of a computer having the mail server name so as to verify whether  
 the mail server name corresponds to the mail server associated with the on-line provider.

3. The method of claim 2,  
 wherein the e-mail address includes a suffix portion; and  
 wherein the converting includes  
 prepending a selected one of a predetermined set of mail server prefixes to the  
 suffix portion to form the mail server name associated with the on-line provider.

4. The method of claim 3,  
 wherein the e-mail address includes a first prefix portion and a first separator portion, and  
 wherein the converting includes

stripping the first prefix portion and the first separator portion from the e-mail address, and

appending a second separator to the selected one of a predetermined set of mail server prefixes so as to form the mail server name associated with the on-line provider.

5. The method of claim 2,

wherein the e-mail address includes a suffix portion; and

wherein the converting includes

obtaining the mail server name associated with the suffix portion from a database.

6. The method of claim 5, further including:

downloading the database from a remote computer.

7. The method of claim 3, further including:

if validity of the mail server name is not verified, repeating the prepending and linking using a different one of the predetermined set of mail server prefixes.

8. The method of claim 4, wherein:

the suffix is a domain identifier,

the first prefix is a mailbox identifier,

the first separator is an "@" symbol,

the second prefix is a mail server prefix, and

the second separator is a "." symbol.

1 9. The method of claim 2, wherein the linking includes:

2 communicating with a domain name server to determine a mail server IP address

3 corresponding to the mail server name; and

4 connecting to the mail port of the mail server IP address.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the on-line provider is a user-selected one of a

2 plurality of on-line providers.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the communicating with the mail server includes:

establishing at least one communications link from a group of communication links

including an analog telephone line, a broadband link, a local area network, a radio frequency link,  
and an infrared link.

12. The method of claim 3, wherein the suffix portion includes at least two domain levels

and a separator between each of the at least two domain levels, and wherein the converting  
further includes

stripping a left-most domain level and a left-most separator from the suffix portion prior to  
the prepending if the suffix portion includes more than two domain levels.

1 13. A system for e-mailing information to a recipient over the Internet, comprising:

2 an electronic device adapted for periodic connection to an Internet service provider and to

3 a configuration computer, the electronic device having

4 a parameter memory,

5 a storage subsystem coupled to the parameter memory and responsive to a  
6 command from the configuration computer for storing configuration parameters in the parameter  
7 memory, and

8 an e-mail subsystem coupled to the parameter memory and responsive to a user  
9 request to connect to an e-mail server of the Internet service provider using a server name and to  
10 e-mail the information to the recipient; and

11 a configuration program executable by the configuration computer to determine the server  
12 name from the user's e-mail address.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the configuration program includes:

a parser to isolate a suffix from the user's e-mail address; and

a concatenator to prepend one of a predefined set of mail server prefixes to the suffix to  
form the server name.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the electronic device has an interface selected from  
the group consisting of a dialup modem, a digital subscriber line modem, a cable modem, a  
network interface, an infrared transceiver, and a radio frequency transceiver, the interface adapted  
to connect the device to the Internet service provider.

16. The system of claim 13, wherein the configuration program further determines a  
maximum e-mail message size supported by the e-mail server

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the e-mail subsystem further splits the information  
2 into one or more e-mail messages, each e-mail message having a size of not more than the  
3 maximum e-mail message size.

1 18. A program storage medium readable by a computing apparatus, tangibly embodying a  
2 program of instructions executable by the computing apparatus for configuring an electronic  
3 device to send e-mail via a mail server of an Internet service provider, the program storage  
4 medium comprising:

5 a first segment of the instructions configured to convert an e-mail address for a user of the  
6 on-line access provider to a mail server name;

7 a second segment of the instructions configured to connect to the mail server using access  
8 information so as to verify validity of the mail server name; and

9 a third segment of the instructions configured to download the mail server name and a  
10 predetermined portion of the access information to the electronic device.

1 19. The program storage medium of claim 18, wherein the e-mail address has a user name,  
2 a first separator, and a suffix, and wherein the first segment has an instruction subset configured  
3 to prepend one of a predetermined set of common mail server prefixes to the suffix so as to form  
4 the mail server name.

1 20. The program storage medium of claim 18, further comprising:

2 a fourth segment of the instructions configured to

3 detect a change in the access information, and

reconfigure the electronic device as required based on the change.

21. The program storage medium of claim 18, further comprising:

a fifth segment of the instructions configured to

receive data representing information to be sent to a specified recipient from the electronic device,  
connect to the mail server, and  
using the mail server, transmit the information to the specified recipient as an e-mail message.

22. A method of configuring an Internet-enabled device to send e-mail, comprising:

providing preconfigured access parameters for a user account of an Internet service provider;

determining a mail server name associated with the user account; and

storing the mail server name and a selected portion of the preconfigured access parameters to the Internet-enabled device.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the determining includes:

providing an e-mail address associated with the user account;

converting the e-mail address to a mail server name.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the determining includes:

accessing a mail server of the Internet service provider corresponding to the mail server name so as to validate the mail server name.

1 25. The method of claim 22, further comprising:  
2 connecting a configuration computer to the user account using the preconfigured access  
3 parameters; and  
4 connecting the configuration computer to the Internet-enabled device.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the determining includes:  
2 connecting the configuration computer to a mail server for the user account corresponding  
3 to the mail server name so as to validate the mail server name.

27. The method of claim 23, further comprising:  
connecting the Internet-enabled device to the user account; and  
sending an e-mail message to the e-mail address so as to verify successful configuration of  
the Internet-enabled device.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein the connecting to a mail server further comprises:  
querying a domain name server so as to determine an IP address of the mail server; and  
3 connecting to a mail port of the IP address.

1 29. The method of claim 22, further including:  
2 accessing a mail server of the Internet service provider corresponding to the mail server  
3 name so as to determine a maximum e-mail size; and  
4 storing the maximum e-mail size to the Internet-enabled device

1 30. The method of claim 22, wherein the Internet-enabled device is a scanner.

1. 31. The method of claim 22, wherein the Internet-enabled device is a multifunction
- 2 peripheral.

- 1 32. The method of claim 22, wherein the Internet-enabled device is a digital camera.

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